

The City of Frederick, Maryland
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of March 12, 2013

(Approved 4/9/2012)

Members Present: D. Rivera, C. Meierhoefer, M. Lawrence, J. Baldi, R. Fox, J. Grove, J. Myers

New Members in Observance: L. Hill, M. Long

Staff Present: R. Myers, M. O'Connor

Regrets: K. Winterstein, R. Knight

Meeting called to order by J. Baldi at 7:00 p.m.

1. Review of the February 12, 2013 minutes:

Motion by J. Myers to approve the minutes as submitted
2nd by C. Meierhoefer
All in favor.

2. Review and discussion of a request by the Frederick Arts Council to waive fees for their 2013 "Festival of the Arts" event in Carroll Creek Urban Park. J. Baldi stated he would step aside as he is a member the Arts Council Board. M. Lawrence took over as Chairman for this agenda item. Mr. Steven Carnes, Vice President and acting President of the Board of Directors for the Frederick Arts Council offered:

- Great event in downtown Frederick bringing in tens of thousands of people from local to across the country;
- Promotes economic development in the entire Frederick area and the new "Color on the Creek" plantings;
- The benefit of waiving fees goes directly to the event itself;
- The event will not be fenced.

R. Myers stated that in 2012 they were charged for the days of set up but not for the actual two (2) days of the event. Discussion centered on past decisions by the Commission but also to state there are costs to the City for all such events. R. Myers further stated they are only setting up on Thursday and Friday which is two (2) days at \$750 per day.

Motion by R. Fox to recommend to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to waive two (2) of the four (4) days fees for the 2013 "Festival of the Arts" event at the Carroll Creek Urban Park;
2nd J. Grove
Six (6) in favor – (1) abstain – J. Baldi.

2A. Review and discussion of a request by the Frederick Arts Council to allow alcohol to be served at their 2013 "Festival of the Arts" event in Carroll Creek Urban Park on June 1 & 2, 2013. Mr. Carnes stated the beer gardens will be operated as in years past with all appropriate fencing and licensing in place. M. O'Connor stated there is a VIP event on Friday night with alcohol as well.

Motion by J. Grove to recommend to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to allow alcohol to be served at the 2013 "Festival of the Arts" event at the Carroll Creek Urban Park;
2nd J. Myers
Six (6) in favor – (1) abstain – J. Baldi.

3. Further discussion of the Friends of Baker Park's proposed Culler Lake Restoration plans. C. Meierhoefer stated she would abstain from this discussion as she is a member of the Friends of Baker Park. Kathy Fay, President of the FOBP and Mr. Peter Brehm, Vice President offered that they are here tonight to ask for a recommendation to the Mayor & Board to approve the water mitigation part of their plan. FOBP have determined they need to work on the water quality of the lake prior to moving on to other parts of the proposed project. FOBP were successful at the end of 2012 in receiving a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust of \$30,000 used to hire an engineering firm to create this plan. This project has been discussed at length with City staff at DPW, Engineering and Parks.

Mr. Brehm stated that Culler Lake is the depository of approximately 66 acres of drainage and now it all flows into the lake untreated and unmitigated. Plan is to redirect flow to keep debris out of the lake. New systems are proposed to "percolate" and remove nitrates, phosphorous, etc. from settling in the lake. This would make it so the lake would not have to be dredged at any time. Also proposed floating plant islands for further filtering which will be tethered by chains to the bottom of the lake as well as two (2) floating fountains anchored in the same manner. This project is proposed to a 50% to 75% improvement in the water quality of Culler Lake.

J. Grove asked who is responsible for maintenance; Mr. Brehm stated it would be the City. Further, what would this project do to future activities on the lake; R. Myers stated it should not affect any at this time. FOBP is anticipating more activity at the lake once it's clean.

J. Grove asked if the lake still has to be dredged; R. Myers stated it still has to be dredged prior to the start of this project. Dredging is currently proposed in the FY14 budget which has yet to be approved.

R. Myers stated that the FOBP has included all City staff necessary in this proposal with the Parks & Recreation Department staff recommends approval.

Motion by J. Grove to recommend to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to approve the Friends of Baker Park's proposed water mitigation plan for Culler Lake;

2nd J. Myers

Six (6) in favor – (1) abstain - C. Meierhoefer.

R. Myers stated he will follow up with the FOBP to see if this may go to a Mayor and Board Workshop before going to a full meeting.

4. Review, support and recommendation to establish a "Tree Advisory Board" for The City of Frederick. Mr. Tom Rippeon, City Arborist, offered his notes to the Commission and offered:
- Primary job is to manage the City's Urban Forest. Stated with the City in 1999 and became the official Arborist in 2001;
 - Initiated and implements programs with the first five (5) years focusing on removing undesirable trees and establishing Tree Planting and Preventative Tree Maintenance programs;
 - This is the second phase of goals started in 2003 with the Urban Tree Canopy program initiated by most of the State of Maryland and the City committed to the program in 2007;
 - In 2008 the original assessment was taken, which is an aerial view of the City, showing 12%. Better imagery of the City was performed in this year bringing us to within one (1) meter;
 - In 2010 established an Urban Forestry Management Plan with the City's Planning Department in which a Tree Mitigation Fund and a Tree Reforestation Fund were established which has about a half million dollars in it. Unable to spend it at the time since there was not a management plan in place;
 - In April of 2010 the Mayor & Board of Aldermen approved a Management Plan and the reforestation project began by installing street trees and reforestation;

Creating a Tree Advisory Board is the next step in benefiting the City as we are the second largest City in the State; a Tree City USA for 30 years; a Plant City Award for 17 years and also received a Growth Award for 8 years. Part of the criteria for being a “Tree City USA” is having an Arborist on staff, a tree department or a tree board. This Board would complement the City in applying for grants that are typically looking for partnerships. Staff is currently working with the Engineering Department on a repairing buffer grant and a Tree Advisory Board would greatly complement this effort. Currently seven (7) local professionals offered to sit on this Board.

C. Meierhoefer asked if the people offering to sit on this Board are City residents. T. Rippeon stated two (2) are from Frederick County, one (1) from Howard County, one (1) that owns a small tree service, one (1) project manager at the City of Gaithersburg. This will be a subcommittee to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Meeting are proposed to be one to four times a year; more if necessary.

T. Rippeon stated there are about six (6) trees in the City that are on a State “Big Tree” tree preservation list. At Frederick High School we have the biggest Elm Tree in the nation at approximately 200 years old; and to co-champ pecan tree next to Hood College at 124’ tall. R. Fox asked what would happen to the tree with the proposed FHS renovation; T. Rippeon stated they cannot touch the tree. The City also has 9,000 street trees and working on putting all the trees into the City’s GIS system cataloging every one.

R. Myers stated he is excited about this Board and sees a true benefit to staff and the residents of the City.

Motion by R. Fox to recommend to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen establish a Tree Advisory Board as a subcommittee to the Parks & Recreation Commission;
2nd J. Grove
ALL in favor.

Tonight is the last night for Commission Member Dwight Rivera who has been with us for ten (10) years. R. Myers stated he very much appreciated his service over the years. D. Rivera offered he has enjoyed his time on this Commission and would like to offer:

- Feels that the baseball league at Max Kehne Park is unfairly treated when it comes to the lights and field use;
- Like to see smoking banned entirely in all City Parks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi A. Winterstein
Commission Secretary